

Work to emply your Man Pollypus and my man Will and such other ingenious young Negroes as we can at it—I think it will give to each Hand at least 6/ ready Mony per day—you are to observe that four Hands can work at each forge at least two, the Bellows is very small with two handles one on each side and [3] the Nailers blow for themselves, each Anvil is very small not above 25 lb weight. these two articles with the addition of a small Hammer and a Key to head the Nails are all the Tools necessary in this Business—I have told you a Week is sufficient to learn a Negroe to make Nails & thus it has appeared to me and I am told by a Number of well informed people from the State of Massachusetts where they punish small offences against the Public by exacting from the Offenders Labour, that the Labour those Offenders generally are employed in is that of making Nails and that they generally make good Nails in a Week and from that to a Month altho' they might never have had a Hammar in hand before—A Nailer I suppose might easily be had here if wanted by the year but at what price I can form no Opinion—I think this Business would be better for my boys to learn than the Trade of a Copper as you Know I some Time past mentioned—And if a Nailer was employed some white Apprentices I should suppose as many as we would take might be got bound to it for seven years or more as their age might chance to be by the Court—[4] You will observe the Seting this Business in motion will cost very little, the Tools I have mentioned, the Iron will cost you but very little more than it does here 1, 2 or 3 Tons will do to begin with and if you should determine to go largely into the Business a Credit say of 3. Months may be obtaned on all the Nail Rod we shall want.—Think of this Business and let me know the Result⁶⁷—You may count on calling will from Hendricks when you please and two of my other Boys Sam & Watt or Sam and Will—And if the Business should prove beneficial and as Nails will be ready Mony [many] other Boys could be bought about 15 or 16 Years of age at from 40 to £50

I can think of Nothing else to add on this Subject at this Time—

Your's &c

W^m. BLOUNT

to

J. G. Blount

⁶⁷This is an example of William Blount's alertness towards any enterprise which might be carried out by the Blounts. They did establish a nailery and many references to this business will occur in the letters following this date in this volume.